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Docket No.: GR 98 P 3185

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date indicated below:

By: Manfred Meintker

Date: March 20, 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Manfred Meintker
Serial No. : 09/665,452
Filed : September 19, 2000
Title : Method and Apparatus for Transferring an Article Between
Fluid- Filled Vessels
Examiner : Jack Keith - Art Unit: 3641

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RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,
Washington, D. C. 20231

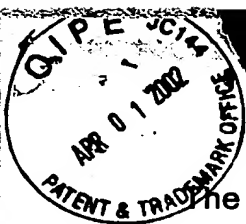
Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated February 20, 2002, the following remarks are made:

In deference to the election requirement on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, applicants elect **group I**, the species of **claims 1-7** for prosecution at this time.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application including the species of group II at a later date.

RESPONSE



The following claims read on the elected species of Fig. 1: claims 1-7.

In view of the foregoing, the early issuance of an Action on the merits, and the allowance of all of the claims are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MARKUS NOLFF
REG. NO. 37,006

For Applicant

Date: March 20, 2002

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